

THE NEW YORK TIMES
4 May 1978

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-11

Shcharansky Trial in Soviet Is Expected This Month

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 3—Representative Benjamin A. Gilman of New York said today that he had learned that Anatoly Shcharansky, the Soviet dissident, might be brought to trial in Moscow later this month.

The Republican member of the House said in an interview that any discussions leading to a prisoner exchange involving Mr. Shcharansky, a 29-year-old computer programmer, would have to wait until the trial, possible conviction and other legal formalities were completed.

But Mr. Gilman said the informal group that last month arranged a three-way exchange of prisoners involving East Germany, Mozambique and the United States was still operating and was examining where and when other exchanges could be made.

He declined to name other possible prisoners to be exchanged or to disclose the source of his information that Mr. Shcharansky might soon come to trial.

No Independent Confirmation

Toom Reston, a State Department spokesman, said the department had no independent information that the trial would open shortly. The Soviet authorities have accused Mr. Shcharansky of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency, but President Carter has denied that the dissident had worked for the United States.

Earlier Mr. Reston had said that the United States would not make an exchange that would imply "Mr. Shcharansky was or is a United States agent."

Several senior intelligence sources have said they believe there will be further East-West exchanges of prisoners accused of spying.

Mr. Gilman said that his informal contacts with Wolfgang Vogel, the East German lawyer who helped arrange the recent exchange of prisoners, and with Israeli officials had indicated that more exchanges might be worked out.

Thompson's Identity Affirmed

In the exchange that was completed on Monday, the United States released Robert G. Thompson, a former Air Force Intelligence clerk convicted of supplying secrets to the Soviet Union. East Germany freed Alan S. Van Norman, a Minnesota college student who was imprisoned after having tried to help an East German family escape, and Miron Marcus, an

Israeli who had been held for 19 months by Mozambique, was also released.

Mr. Thompson, before leaving for East Germany, told reporters that he was actually a German born in Leipzig and had assumed the identity of a Robert G. Thompson of Detroit.

But former intelligence officers said Mr. Thompson had told different stories, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation had firmly established that the man they held was Robert G. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson was recruited by Soviet agents while he was stationed in West Germany in the mid-1950's, and he aided Soviet agents until his arrest in Bay Shore, L.I., in 1963. He was first identified when F.B.I. agents watching Soviet officials spotted him meeting with a Soviet intelligence officer.

Mr. Gilman said his group was also interested in obtaining the release of Lawrence Lunt, an American imprisoned in Cuba. In 1975 a tentative agreement to exchange Mr. Lunt for Mr. Thompson had been worked out, but was said to have fallen apart when President Fidel Castro of Cuba backed off.

File